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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/531,571	03/20/2000	Bill E. Williams	BS99-191	6194
7590	01/12/2005		EXAMINER	
Withers & Keys LLC P O Box 71355 Marietta, GA 30007-1355			PATEL, JAGDISH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/531,571	WILLIAMS ET AL.
	Examiner JAGDISH PATEL	Art Unit 3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5,7-10 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5,7-10 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.   |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.                                   |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 10/22/04.

***Response to Amendment***

2. Claims 1-5, 7-10 have been amended, claims 6 and 11-32 have been canceled, and claim 33 have been added. Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 33 are currently pending and are examined.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 1 recites method step "receiving service orders from customers specifying one or more activities wherein one or more of the service orders require requires an account number change". However, this step also further recites that " a billing vendor system ..utilizes the account number being changed". This later limitation does not functionally relate to the act of "receiving service orders from the customers". No

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patentable weight is accorded to the attribute of the billing computer system as claimed.

6. dependent claims also inherit same deficiency. Note that this deficiency renders the claimed invention unclear and indefinite. The claims have been examined accordingly.

7. Claim 7 and 8 similarly recite attributes of the "record format" which do not functionally relate to act of reformatting and/or transmitting.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jost et al. (US Pat. 6,778,651).

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Claim 1 : Jost et al. Teaches a method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes that involve account numbers stored for customers. comprising:  
receiving service orders from the customers specifying one or more activities, wherein one or more of the service orders requires an account number change and wherein a billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor utilizes the account number being changed;

(col. 6 L 1-4)

creating electronic service order entries within a service order computer system of a service provider based on the received service orders, wherein information is included within each electronic service order entry to indicate that the account number has changed for the customer when the service order results in the account number change;

(col. 23 L 20-47)

flagging the electronic service order entries that correspond to electronic billing customers;

(col. 36 L 58-65, col. 40 L 31-40)

storing the electronic service order entries in an update computer file;

(see details of "database" at section II. At col. 26+)

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searching the update computer file for flagged entries that include the information that indicates an account number change;

(see col. 27 L 2-12, management services)

creating a new file that includes the flagged electronic service order entries that include the information that indicates an account number change that have been found by the search;

(col. 23 L 20-46 refer to BOSS 40 interfacing with SOAC 20 via SMS 10, col. 5 L 32-36)

reformatting the flagged electronic service order entries of the new file that include the information that indicate: account number changes to a record format compatible with the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor; and

(col. 62 section D. Data Reformat)

transmitting the reformatted flagged entries of the new file that include the information that indicates account number changes over a computer network to the billing computer system of the electronic billing vendor.

(col. 23 L 20-46 refer to BOSS 40 interfacing with SOAC 20 via SMS 10, col. 5 L 32-36)

Claim 2: creating service order entry for each activity of each service order (see col. 42, Configuration Information).

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Claim 3: placing the electronic service order entries in the update computer file at an interval (col. 125 L 51-64, audit 602).

Claim 10: see claim 1 analysis.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. Claims 4,5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jost as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Official Notice.

Regarding claim 4, Official Notice is taken that searching computer files with a queries having a multiple search criteria and having an order of search based on multiple attributes in a prioritized order (first searching for attribute A, then within the detected entries having attribute A, then searching for attribute A1 within the detected entries etc.) is old and well known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to apply this well known search routine to carry out search for flagged entries and then account number changes among the flagged entries as a matter of chosen query process because one would efficiently

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locate the desired entries (e.g. entries having account number changes).

Claim 5 is also similarly analyzed.

Claim 9: Official Notice is taken that transmitting data over a network using a file transfer protocol (FTP) old and well known.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to transmit the flagged electronic service order entries that indicate account number changes to the computer system of the billing vendor through a computer network using a file transfer protocol (FTP) as a matter of designer's choice.

#### **Conclusion**

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS

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of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (703)308-7837. The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (703)308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

1/10/05